

REMARKS

Claims 31-34 are pending. They recite a caplet comprising a caplet core containing a pharmaceutical active, said core having longitudinal sides, and said sides having a peripheral edge surface that is curved in shape, wherein said caplet has a width to thickness ratio of about 1.

The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over EP 0 279 682. The Examiner argues EP '682 teaches capsule-like medicaments in the form of caplets having a cylindrical shape with first and second gelatinous coatings and a seam. The Examiner states that EP '682 teaches the coating has uniform thickness that may be varied to provide a smoother, easier-to-swallow caplet. The Examiner submits that Figures 7 and 8 of EP '682 show bow-shaped caplets, and concludes the claimed invention would have been obvious in view of EP '682.

Applicants disagree. EP '682 neither teaches nor suggests bow-shaped caplets. A bow-shaped caplet according to the invention is shown in Figures 1-4, especially Figures 1 and 2, of the present application. Compare these with Figure 5, which shows a conventional caplet shape, such as that described in EP '682. See also Applicants' specification on page 8, line 22 to page 9, line 23, where Applicants describe the advantages of bow-shaped caplets, such as avoidance of twinning and increased hardness.

Figures 7 and 8 of EP '682 do not show bow-shaped caplets. Rather, they show conventional caplets of the kind generally shown in Figure 5 of the present application.

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Applicants submit the rejection under Section 103(a) is without merit. Allowance of claims 31-34 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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